

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2016:

President Richard West opened the meeting at 20.00 hours and welcomed the 15 members of Croydon Philatelic Society present. He also welcomed members of **Wokingham Philatelic Society** who were the speakers for the evening.

For the first part of the evening **Alwyn Lowe** gave a display on **The Life and Work of Czeslaw Slania**.



Slania (1921-2005) was an engraver who engraved stamps for 31 different countries. He began in his home country of Poland before moving to Sweden. Amongst the countries for whom he worked and whose stamps were on display were Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Great Britain, Australia, Ireland, Jamaica, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, China, Switzerland, Hong Kong and the United Nations. He was a prolific engraver producing in excess of 1000 stamps in his career. The material was largely stamps with examples of definitives, commemoratives, airmails, colour proofs and miniature sheets. His skill was such that he could engrave 10 lines within one millimetre.

The second part of the evening was presented by **Eric Holmes** on **Gibraltar**.



The majority of the display was made up of postal history dating from 1704. Many of the early letters were sent by merchant ships as overland mail was difficult as Britain was in dispute with Spain or France. Some interesting items were combination covers with 2 stamps – one British and the other Spanish. This was because the first part of the journey was by ship to Cadiz and therefore was paid in sterling and displayed a British stamp whilst the second part of the journey was covered by a Spanish stamp. The final two frames were of Gibraltar stamps including die proofs and colour trials.

Both displays were of high quality and much enjoyed by Croydon members. At the conclusion of the evening President Richard thanked the speakers and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

28.09.2016

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Graham Harker

Honorary Assistant Secretary, Croydon Philatelic Society